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Social Science Research Center
Berlin

János Kis

The Hungarian Constitutional Crisis

Thursday, May 12, 2 pm c.t. to 4 pm

Humboldt University of Berlin
Unter den Linden 6, Room 3031
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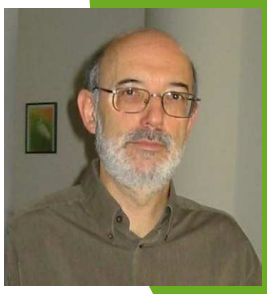
On Easter Monday, April 25, the Hungarian President signed into law Hungary's new constitution, scheduled to enter into force on January 1, 2012. The constitution is widely understood to be more than an instrument to overcome technical deficiencies of the old constitution. It is celebrated by some as the constitutional consolidation of a conservative revolution. Others insist it is in deep tension procedurally, substantively and symbolically with basic commitments to liberal democracy, that are the foundation of the European Union. What exactly is troubling about the new constitution and should it be a concern for European citizens and their governments?



The political philosopher **János Kis**, born 1943, teaches as Distinguished Global Professor of Philosophy at the New York University and political science and philosophy at the Central European University, Budapest. During the communist regime in Hungary, he was one of the most notable dissidents, as chief editor of the underground magazine „Beszélő". In 1988 he was one of the founders of the liberal party Szabad Demokraták Szövetsége (SzDSz) and party leader in 1990/91. Kis left the party in 2002, when the socialist prime minister was exposed as a former secret agent. He has translated Rousseau, Kant and Fichte into Hungarian.

Organized by
Prof. Dr. Mattias Kumm
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This event will take place in English.